



Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

www.sos.arkansas.gov

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Summer 2005

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS *Grant to Fund Dome Restoration*

The Office of the Secretary of State recently received a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) in the amount of \$1 million for the restoration and repair of the State Capitol dome, north facade and dome platform.

The capitol's exterior stonework has received virtually no restoration work since the late 1960's. The dome was cleaned in 1988, but has since become heavily soiled and stained with lichen.

The exterior of the capitol was sandblasted in 1949 to provide a cleaner appearance for the building, but eventually did more damage to the building. The sandblasting opened the "cured" limestone surfaces to moisture penetration. This caused the deterioration of the limestone to accelerate.

Throughout the building, mortar is visibly missing, and none of the sealants installed during the 1960's restoration are intact. Water is entering the building through these open joints causing damage to the

rotunda ceiling and other areas of the capitol.

Restoration and repair work will be done in three phases: the dome, the north facade and the dome platform.

Contractor bids for the project will begin in August with completion expected by November 2005.

"I'm proud of our capitol building and what it represents," said Secretary of State Charlie Daniels. "We're doing everything we can to preserve her beauty and magnificence. The grant awarded by ANCRC will provide the necessary funds to conduct the improvements and restoration work the Capitol needs to make it a safer and more beautiful building," he added.



New Centralized Voter Registration System Begins Testing

Since February, Secretary of State Charlie Daniels' office has been working closely with Election Systems & Software, Inc. (ES&S) to implement the new statewide voter registration system for Arkansas. The system, known as NOVA (the Network of Voters in Arkansas), will enable state and county election officials to manage elections quickly, easily and more efficiently once it is fully installed in all 75 Arkansas counties. NOVA is scheduled to be fully operational in every county by January 2006.

Election officials from five pilot counties – Boone, Benton, Faulkner, Monroe, and Ouachita - were in Little Rock June 13 through June 17 for training on the new system. They are now testing the user-friendly software in their home counties and will offer feedback on any necessary adjustments.

Once fully operational, the new voter database will enable all of Arkansas's counties to process voter registrations through one centralized system.

(See NOVA Cont. on Page 2)



It was my pleasure to welcome the American Taekwondo Association's World Championships to Arkansas earlier this summer. We were honored to greet Grand Master Soon Ho Lee and a number of South Korean dignitaries at a special State Capitol ceremony. I even enjoyed joining in the fun at the opening ceremonies by breaking a board, which I learned to do especially for the occasion. With more than 25,000 athletes and spectators assembling from around the globe, the annual event has an important impact on the state, both culturally and economically.

When that event comes back to Little Rock in 2006, the State Capitol will be shining from a long-awaited restoration. It's been 17 years since the dome was cleaned, and it has become badly grayed by the elements. But a \$1 million grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council will enable us to restore luster to the limestone exterior. Look for that work to be completed in time for the holidays this year.

(Continued on Page 2)

501-682-1010



(Continued from front page)

Our work to implement the Help America Vote Act continues as we begin testing the new statewide voter registration system. I want to extend my gratitude to the county clerks in Boone, Benton, Faulkner, Monroe and Ouachita counties for being the first to test NOVA, or the Network of Voters in Arkansas. The next big step will be selecting the state's new voting equipment, which we expect to do in the coming weeks.

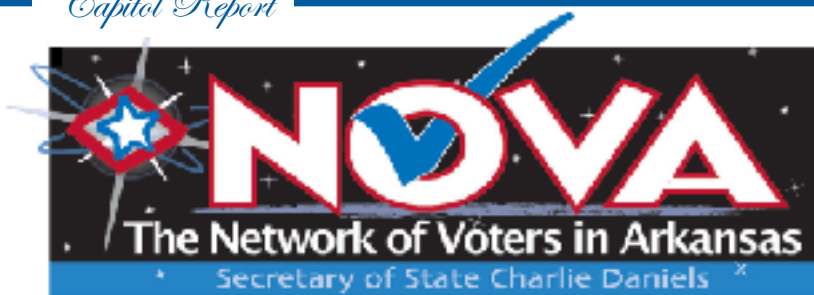
Let Us Know!

Need a Speaker?

The Secretary of State offers specialized programs for students, civic groups, businesses and others. To schedule a speaker for your group, call (501) 683-3702.

Need to Update?

If you receive duplicate issues of this newsletter or need to change your address, call (501) 682-3470 or e-mail arsos@sos.arkansas.gov.



NOVA (Cont. from front page)

NOVA will allow election officials from around the state to share information electronically across county lines. Each county will have high-speed internet connections installed to provide secure, high-speed Internet capability. This will give county clerks the ability to update voter rolls throughout Arkansas, transfer voters from county to county automatically and eliminate duplicate registrations. It will also be used to qualify candidates for elections, assign voting districts and organize elections.

The system will also enable clerks to check voter names against other state agencies including the Division of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Health and the Arkansas Crime Investigation Center using a program called Agency Central®.

"All of the county clerks have been very cooperative in making this project work," said Secretary Daniels. "Our office has had a good relationship with all of the election officials and everyone involved has had a great willingness to make this system successful," he added.

Once the initial testing is completed in the pilot counties, the vendor will conduct regional training sessions around the state for all county election officials. Election officials will then go "live" and test the system in their home county to ensure it is working in compliance with all state and federal requirements.

The centralized computer system cost approximately \$5 million to develop and implement. The funding for the system will be paid with the state's share of federal funds through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) along with state matching funds.

Program Celebrates 85 Years of Woman Suffrage August 26

Votes for Women! Upon the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the right to vote was given to white male protestant property owners over the age of 21. It took almost 200 years for all Americans to realize their voting rights. Women, who achieved their right to vote in 1920, fought for many years to gain voting equality in the United States. This year commemorates the eighty-fifth anniversary of the woman's right to vote.

To celebrate this momentous occasion, Secretary of State



Charlie Daniels is organizing a special commemoration at the Arkansas State Capitol. Custom exhibits will showcase women such as Susan B. Anthony and Alice Paul who were vital to the women's suffrage movement. Reproductions of suffrage banners will adorn the rotunda as several of today's women leaders reflect on their experiences. The event will be on August 26 at 1 p.m. at

the State Capitol, and the public is invited to attend.

For more information, call (501)-682-3470.

Voting Machines, Presidential Primaries Focus of Election Law Changes

During this year's legislative session, the 85th General Assembly passed a number of important changes relating to election laws. Many of the measures were passed to amend existing laws to reflect changes required under the federal Help America Vote Act.

Below is a summary of some of the more notable acts and their related code sections. A complete overview is available on the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections_information.html.

Act 1695 §7-6-203(a) and (b) — Increases the limit on campaign contributions from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Act 1827 §7-4-101(f) and 107 — Pertains to voting machines, election expense reimbursement, membership of county boards of election commissioners and candidate certification. Also requires that at least one election official at each polling site attend election training coordinated by the State Board of Election Commissioners.

Act 654 §7-5-532 — Requires new direct record electronic voting machines to provide a voter verified paper audit trail.

Act 2233 — Provides for the acquisition, use and costs of voting systems that comply with the federal Help America Vote Act. Requires counties to choose the type of voting equipment from options provided by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will purchase the voting systems and counties will bear the ongoing administrative costs of using their voting systems. Lever machines and punch card voting will no longer be allowed.

Act 501 §7-8-201 — Presidential Preferential Primary elections are to be held the first Tuesday in February of the year in which the convention is held. The two-week filing period will begin at noon on the first Monday in November.

Act 2145 — Requires special elections to be held on the second Tuesday of a month or on the date of

primary or general elections.

Act 1258 §3-8-501 — Allows residents annexed from a dry township into a wet city or town to call for a local option election.

Act 1151 §23 — Allows local option elections to authorize additional forms of electronic games of skill at horse and dog racing facilities.

Act 1174 §6-14 — School elections involving districts in more than one county shall be run by the election commission of the county where the school's administrative offices are located. Also provides stipulations for conducting school board elections.

Amendment 51 Act 1952 — Requires applications collected at events such as voter registration drives to be delivered within 21 days and no later than the registration deadline for the next election.

Act 1827 §7-5-311 — Addresses a number of accessibility requirements for voters with disabilities.

Act 751 §7-5-406 — Provides for special absentee ballots for members of the uniformed services residing outside the U.S.

Act 655 §7-5-418 and 504 — Changes early voting hours and disallows early voting on state holidays; provides for secure storage of election materials after voting hours; and requires early voting hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Act 880 §7-5-309 — Requires an election official to initial the back of the ballot, remove the ballot stub and place the stub into the stub box before giving the ballot to the voter.

Act 138 §7-5-202(a) — Allows early and absentee ballots to be counted on election day before the polls close.

Act 731 §7-5-701 — Requires the Secretary of State to file a complaint with the State Board of Elections for county boards that do not comply with election certification deadlines.



SOS Class of 2005

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels is pleased to be joined by an outstanding group of interns for 2005. On staff for the summer are: (front row, from left) Casey Harris, B.J. Webster, Angel Harris, Secretary Daniels, Gregory Steinsiek, Heather Steinsiek and Ryan Green; (back row) Jillian Jones, Zach Higgs, Mitchell Dedman, Jermaine Poindexter, William Douthard and Lindsey Oliver. Not pictured are Laura Faulk, Chase Daneshmandi and Danica Stout.

Franchise Tax Collections, Processing Set Records

The Business and Commercial Services Division of Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels' office has set a new record in processing annual franchise taxes. Filings that once took until early October to process were completed by mid July this year. Charlie Daniels, Arkansas Secretary of State, said, "We are making great strides in serving the people of Arkansas in a timely manner."

Over 95,000 annual franchise tax reports were mailed to Arkansas business owners and foreign corporations doing business in the state of Arkansas in January 2005. Eighty percent of these reports, numbering 76,283, have been paid and updated in the SOS computer database. The other 20 percent remain unpaid; however, payment can still be made with penalty and interest applied. These unpaid entities will remain in a "not current" status until payment is made or until December 31, 2005, at which time their status as corporations able to do business in Arkansas will move to "revoked."

This overwhelming success can be contributed to a major media campaign that Secretary Daniels initiated, and personal

letters sent to all business owners explaining the change in amount and time due for franchise tax payments this year. There were a record number of online franchise tax payment services this year, with the availability of XML filing and batch filing for CPA's and accountants.

More than \$7.2 million in franchise taxes were paid by the new May deadline this year. That number is more than twice the \$3.5 million collected by the June deadline in 2004. That pace is expected to bring in \$14 million by year's end with \$8 million going to the state's general revenue fund and \$6 million to the educational adequacy fund.

About 21 percent of all corporations that filed by the due date paid online this year. In 2004, that number was 14 percent.

For more information on corporate franchise taxes, contact the Secretary of State's Business and Commercial Services Division at (501) 682-3409 or log on to www.sos.arkansas.gov.

"Wanna Be Heard" Earns Prism Award

A campaign to energize young voters was honored April 5 with one of the state's top awards in public relations. The Secretary of State's "Wanna Be Heard" voter outreach campaign earned a Prism Award in Public Service from the Arkansas chapter of the Public Relations Society of America during a ceremony at the Arkansas Arts Center.

The Secretary of State's Communications and Education staff worked closely with the Mangan Holcomb Rainwater Culpepper agency to craft a campaign targeted toward Arkansans in the 18-25 age demographic. Two television spots, a website, a college campus outreach campaign and collateral materials were included in the campaign that emphasized the "Wanna Be Heard" message to young adults.

Preliminary statistics from the 2004 presidential election show an 11 percent increase in the number of 18-25 year olds who voted when compared to the 2000 election.

To learn more about the campaign, visit www.wannabeheard.org.

State Police Mark 70 Years With Capitol Exhibit

"On Guard Across Arkansas," an exhibit honoring the seven decades of the Arkansas State Police, is on view in the first-floor galleries of the State Capitol through August 2005.

Organized in cooperation with the Arkansas State Police Museum Association, the exhibit includes vintage photographs, uniforms, weapons and equipment, as well as mementoes from historic cases. A special display pays tribute to troopers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Highlights include the application materials for one of the 13 original officers chosen in 1935 to form the Arkansas Rangers, later re-designated the Arkansas State Police. Visitors will also find examples of the six official-issue sidearms carried by the State Police since 1935, as well as gambling materials seized in a famous series of raids on Hot Springs casinos during the mid-1960s.

Materials for the exhibit have been loaned or donated by officers of the State Police or their heirs; others are displayed through the courtesy of the Arkansas State Police and its director, Colonel Steve Dozier. The goals of the exhibit are both to interpret the State Police's history of professional law enforcement across the state and to raise public awareness of the efforts to create a modern museum that will preserve the traditions of the Arkansas State Police.



"On Guard Across Arkansas"



Celebrating TKD Gold

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels, an honorary eighth degree black belt, used his new skills to break a board during the opening ceremonies of the American Taekwondo Association's World Championships at Alltel Arena on June 17.

Earlier in the day, Secretary Daniels officially welcomed Grand Master Soon Ho Lee, a number of South Korean dignitaries and ATA athletes during a ceremony at the State Capitol. More than 25,000 participants and guests participated in the competitions, which celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the sport of taekwondo.

SOS Staff Return from Active Duty

Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels is pleased to honor four State Capitol employees who were mobilized as part of the Global War on Terrorism: State Capitol Police Sergeants Charlie Brice, David Hughes, and Darryl Talley, and Communications Specialist Reginald Jackson.

Tech Sgt. Brice, a 23-year veteran of the Air Force National Guard, spent 19 months providing security for the Little Rock Air Force Base; Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas; Aljaber Air Base in Kuwait City; and the Kuwait City International Airport. "It was almost like being a new employee again when I got back," Bryce said. "There were new faces, and I had to learn my job all over again. But it's good to have a supportive employer like Mr. Daniels."

Sgt. 1st Class Talley of the Army National Guard was mobilized for one year. He served as a supervisor of homeland security at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, which housed wounded soldiers from Iraq. Despite the strain of being both a working citizen and part of the Guard, Talley said that he has enjoyed the opportunity. "It's good training, you get money, you get school taken care of, and you're serving your country, all at the same time."

Petty Officer 1st Class Hughes has spent 18 years in the military, first in the Air Force National Guard, and most recently in the Navy Reserves. He was away for 23 months, first providing Law Enforcement and Security for the Little Rock Air Force Base, and then working Personal Security Detail for a Deputy Commanding General of Task Force 11 in Masirah Island, Oman. Hughes then returned to Law Enforcement and Security at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, before reporting to Fairford, England,

to lead a Threat Detection Team. Finally, Hughes served as a Security for Civil Engineers and Air Base Ground Defense at the Baghdad International Airport in Iraq. "The work was dangerous, the living conditions were harsh, and I worked up to 16 hour days, but I also got to travel all over the world and meet all kinds of interesting people," Hughes said.

Lt. Jackson spent over two years in Millington, Tenn., as part of Navy Personnel Command. A public information officer, he was stationed at Naval Support Activity Mid-South, a base that serves as the center for all Navy order writing and job placement. "The office was very supportive during my time away," Jackson said. "I would like to thank everyone for keeping in contact with me and for welcoming me back so enthusiastically."



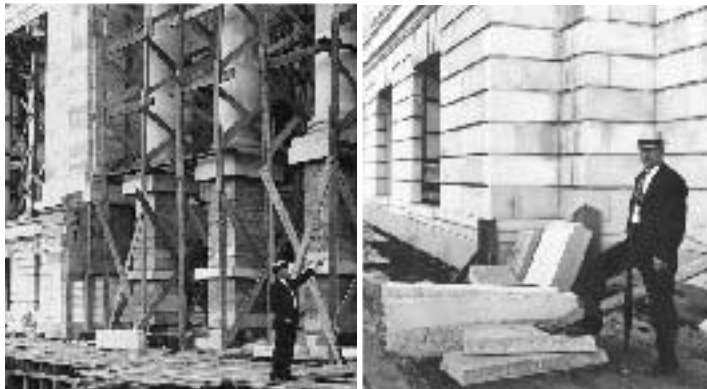
(From left) - Lt. Reginald Jackson, Secretary of State Charlie Daniels, Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Talley, Petty Officer 1st Class David Hughes Not pictured, Tech Sgt. Charlie Brice

Capitol Reflections: Summer Heat and Determination

July 19, 1909, was a mild Arkansas summer day, mostly clear with temperatures rising into the mid-80s by late afternoon. On the construction site of the new State Capitol, however, the presence of Governor George Donaghey dispelled any summer laziness. A month earlier, Donaghey had authorized the Capitol Commission to take possession of the uncompleted structure, displacing contractors Caldwell and Drake. By the end of June, the capitol commissioners hired Cass Gilbert, president of the American Institute of Architects, to take over the capitol project. On July 14, Gilbert and a pair of engineers arrived in Little Rock to examine the building, determining which parts of extant construction could be retained and which should be demolished. After conferring with Gilbert, Donaghey announced that the 1911 Assembly would meet in the new capitol; two days after this announcement, the work of tearing out and rebuilding began, documented at every turn by Little Rock photographer Thomas Rayburn.

Rayburn images dating from July 19, 1909, capture a clear image of Arkansas's governor, intent on one of what would be many inspections of work on the capitol. In one photo, Donaghey is shown standing a few feet above ground

level, outside the windows of today's Room 172, beneath the windows of today's Governor's office, on the site of today's ground-level east entrance. Despite the July heat, Donaghey wore a woolen suit, topped with a sensible straw boater. No rain was forecast for the day, so Donaghey likely carried his umbrella to provide a little portable shade. Most notable, though, is the set determination visible in his face. The next 18 months would be rocky, but Donaghey's vision was realized: on January 9, 1911, the Legislative Assembly removed from the State House to the new State Capitol, unfinished but ready enough to assume its intended role, the home of Arkansas's government.



Governor George Donaghey surveys progress in construction of the new Arkansas State Capitol, July 19, 1909.



8-05

Charlie Daniels

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Happy Birthday, Arkansas!
The Natural State Celebrated 169 Years on June 15.